

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 of the application have been amended, claim 6 has been canceled and claim 11 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-5 and 7-11 are in this application and are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

Objections to the Specification/Claims

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended the specification and abstract. In particular, the specification has been amended to include section headings and the abstract has been replaced with a substitute abstract in clean form. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to delete the dashes as requested by the Examiner.

In addition, Applicants have amended claim 1 to delete therefrom a typographical error as a result of the preliminary amendment dated December 12, 2000 and inserted the word "and" before the "storing" step. Also, claims 2-5 and 7-10 have been amended to improve their form. Other amendments to the claims are described below.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the terminology "programme places" in claim 1 is ambiguous and that the phrase "so on" in claim 7 is indefinite. Applicants respectfully disagree with respect to claim 1 and have amended claim 7.

With respect to claim 1, the term "programme places" is also referred to in the description as "programme locations." For example, TV sets, VCRs, etc., have numbers assigned to the various stations, which can be reproduced by the device, e.g., programme location 1 – ARD, programme location 2 – ZDF, programme location 3 – N3, etc. (see also Applicants' specification, page 9, Ins. 25-26). This assignment of programme locations to broadcasting stations may already be specified and stored in

the set by the manufacturer or may be manually input by the user. Due to the assignment, a user can easily select a specific broadcasting station. For example, using the illustration above, the user can easily select the broadcasting station ARD by pushing the key 1 on the remote control. On the other hand, the term "channel" corresponds to the broadcasting station, e.g., ARD. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the term "programme places" is clear.

With respect to claim 7, Applicants have deleted the phrase "so on."

In view of the above, Applicants' respectfully submit that the basis for the rejection of claim 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been removed.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,625,422 issued April 29, 1997 to Kim (*Kim*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,213 issued November 16, 1999 to Mankovitz et al. (*Mankovitz*). Although Applicants respectfully do not agree, Applicants have amended claim 1 in the interests of furthering prosecution and also included in claim 1 the requirements of Applicants' claim 6, which has been canceled.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly specify that a TV signal, received on a satellite receiver programme place selected by a connected television receiver, is transferred from the satellite receiver to the television receiver. This TV signal comprises a channel identifying information based on which the actual channel (i.e., broadcaster) is determined by the TV receiver allowing the TV receiver to store information assigning the received channel to the selected programme place of the satellite receiver.

In comparison, *Kim* discloses a method for channel selection and tuning based upon set channel positions, where a user enters the desired channels, i.e., broadcasting station names, by means of a remote control into a table in a desired order. After this channel setting is completed, a programming search tuning is performed by the TV or VCR. The TV/VCR tunes to the receivable stations and compares the station names

with the names in the table so that a tuned channel is matched with the channel position in the table.

As such, *Kim* does not disclose the cooperation of two connected devices, i.e., a television receiver connected to a satellite receiver. Therefore, *Kim* does not disclose any of the following of Applicants' claimed features:

- supplying a selection signal from the television receiver to the satellite receiver for selecting a programme place of the satellite receiver,
- transferring a TV signal received on the selected programme place from the satellite receiver to the television receiver,
- determining the channel on the selected programme place of the satellite receiver from the channel identifying information by the television receiver, and
- storing an information assigning the determined channel to said selected programme place of the satellite receiver in the television receiver.

Indeed, *Kim* does not disclose a satellite receiver at all and, therefore, also does not show the feature of tuning the satellite receiver to the selected programme place.

Turning now to *Mankovitz*, this reference discloses a system capable of automatically recording television programmes broadcast in different cable television channels. The consumer has to enter sets of channel, date, time-of-day and length commands (CDTL information). The data can be represented in form of a compressed code, which the user may take from a television magazine and which, after entering by the user, are decoded in order to be converted into the CDTL data. These data are stored in a memory of the VCR and at the same time, or shortly after, a subset of the data is also transferred to a cable programmer for tuning a cable box. In the embodiment of Fig. 32 of *Mankovitz* (referred to in the text passage cited by the Examiner) the system also includes a satellite receiver. This satellite receiver can, similarly to the cable box and the VCR, receive commands from the television receiver including a G-code decoder, especially on/off commands and channel select commands. However, before the system of *Mankovitz* can be used, the user must perform an initial setup procedure, which includes entering a local channel map which maps national channel numbers for certain networks and cable channels into the actual channel numbers used for these channels by the user's cable system (see *Mankovitz*, col. 2, ln. 66 to col. 3, ln. 6). This local channel map must either be manually entered (*Mankovitz*,

col. 3, ln. 37) or can be downloaded using a telephone line (see, e.g., *Mankovitz*, col. 34, lns. 45-60 or col. 42, lns. 50-67).

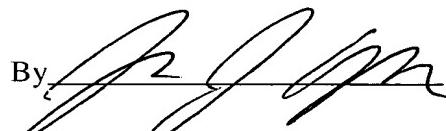
As such, the system of *Mankovitz* is contrary to Applicants' claimed invention where the cooperation of the television receiver with the connected satellite receiver determines on which satellite receiver programme place a desired channel is located. In particular, the system of *Mankovitz* does not describe detecting channel identifying information within a TV signal transferred from a satellite receiver by the television receiver, determining the channel on a selected programme place of the satellite receiver from this channel identifying information by the television receiver, and storing an information assigning the determined channel to the selected programme place of the satellite receiver in the television receiver as required by Applicants' claim 1.

In view of the above, neither *Kim* or *Mankovitz* singly or in combination describe or suggest the requirements of Applicants' amended claim 1. Therefore, remaining dependent claims 2-4 and 7-10 are also considered to be patentable. Similar comments apply with respect to new claim 11.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefor.

Respectfully submitted
Achim Storz et al.

By 
Joseph J. Opalach
Registration No.: 36,229
(609) 734-6839

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing, Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312
May 12, 2004